

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

CROP ALERT

June 15, 2018

Mike Stanyard & Jodi Letham, Regional Agronomists, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Soybean Aphid Scouting

The last two growing seasons have not been big soybean aphid years, which has been great! However, if they have successfully overwintered, it's about that time when they will be flying from buckthorn to young soybeans. I seem to find first colonies in mid-June. The winged females will lay live young (all females) and will bounce from plant to plant seeding potential new colonies. We are still early enough that those soybeans treated with an insecticide on the seed should control these early aphids. These first SBA infestations are hard to locate so here's a tip. Look for the ants! The ants search out these aphids to get their waste products; honeydew.

If you see ants on a soybean plant, I guarantee the aphids will be there. Here is a video on scouting for SBA by looking for the ants, <https://vimeo.com/131208222>. Threshold is 250 aphids per plant but could be lower if on small plants particularly if plants are drought stressed.



Maximum Corn Growth Stage for Postemergence Herbicide Application

We are getting close or have surpassed the labeled corn height on some of our postemergence corn herbicides. Many herbicide labels state a maximum corn height (atrazine is 12") or growth stage in leaf collars when a product can be broadcast. It may also state height restrictions when drop nozzles should be used. For example: Accent Q - Broadcast up to 20" tall or through the V6 stage. Apply with drop nozzles when corn is 20-36" tall or before the V10 stage. Here is a good table from the University of Illinois that includes most of the labeled postemergence herbicides we use in NY. <http://bulletin.ipm.illinois.edu/?p=3637>.

Interseeding Cover Crops

Interseeding cover crops is an advantageous way to provide a number of benefits that will increase your soil quality. In proportion to their growth in the fall and following spring, cover crops help to recycle nitrogen in the soil, protect soil from erosion, and also add organic matter. Interseeding cover crops into corn and soybeans can be a successful strategy to improve cover crop performance without decreasing crop yields. Cover crops can be broadcast or drill interseeded in the space between 30" corn or soybean rows after the cash crop has been established and is no longer susceptible to competition from weeds (i.e., roughly stage V5 for corn and V4 for soybeans). Interseeded cover crops therefore have more time to grow before winter. As corn and soybeans begin to senesce in late summer, cover crop plants quickly add biomass before winter which in return reflects the ability of a cover crop to reduce erosion and protect the soil over the winter months. Annual ryegrass and clover are common interseeded cover crops with recommended rates of 10-20 lbs. /acre.

For more information about this practice and the InterSeeder see:

1. <http://extension.psu.edu/plants/crops/soil-management/cover-crops/interseeder-applicator/improving-the-success-of-interseeding-cover-crops-in-corn>
2. <http://www.interseedertech.com/>

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Corn Herbicides and Interseeding

Those growers interested in interseeding cover crops should think about their herbicide program first to see if it is even a compatible program. Penn State has put together an injury index chart for annual ryegrass and red clover, <https://extension.psu.edu/cover-crop-interseeder-potential-for-injury-from-corn-herbicides>. It rates them as either Low, Medium or High risk.

It goes through and rates individual herbicides as well as some of the most common mixtures. Here is an example of the Triazine section of the chart.



Photo source: Matt Ryan, Cornell University

Herbicide Treatment	Product Rate	Label Rate	App Timing	Annual Ryegrass	Red Clover	Mixture
Atrazine (4L)	1 pt.	1/2X	Pre	Low	Med	Med
Atrazine (4L)	2 pt.	1X	Pre	Med	Med	Med
Atrazine (4L)	3 pt.	1.5X	Pre	High	High	High
Metribuzin 75 WG	4 oz.	1X	Pre	High	Low	Me

TAg Team for Soil Health

Jodi Letham and WNY Soil Health Alliance are teaming up to offer a TAg Team project to learn about Soil Health issues and Practices. The TAg team approach is a hands-on learning experience generally consisting of a group 8-10 people who will commit to attending 4 meetings specifically designed to cover topics of interest relating to the main area of interest. The people participating are those interested in adopting newer practices that will improve their operation and want to learn. Typically, we like to move our meeting location between farms that have already been implementing these practices so that our participants can get a visual.

For our first meeting we will convene next Wednesday 6/20/18 at Toussaint Farms located at 3704 Culvert Road Medina, NY 14103. We will meet from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Toussaint's have just started interseeding and we will make that the focus of the first meeting. After that, we can decide the next steps based on the group's interest.

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Upcoming Event:

Malting Barley, Wheat & Rye Twilight Tour

Thursday, June 21, 5:30 PM

3792 Post Rd., Geneva (Seneca County)

Hosted by the Freier Family

Come walk through the Cornell winter malting barley, wheat and hybrid rye variety trial and take a tour of all the varieties being tested in 2018.

See which varieties will look good on your farm next year!

Presenters:

Mike Stanyard, CCE NWNY Team

Malting Barley and Wheat Agronomics and Pest Management

Gary Bergstrom, Cornell University Plant Pathologist

Malting Barley and Wheat Diseases and Fusarium Head Scab Management

***This event is free but please RSVP (call or text) Mike Stanyard (585-764-8452)**

Look forward to seeing everyone!

